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GENERAL

1. Estimated Soviet course of action in Near East--US Ambassador Smith in Moscow transmits his opinion that the Soviet course of action vis-a-vis the Near East will probably include: (a) strong support of the recommendation of the UN Special Committee on Palestine for an international force for Palestine; (b) insistence on the inclusion of a Soviet contingent in such a force; and (c) general acceleration of Soviet propaganda and subversive activities throughout the Near East. Smith believes that in formulating its policy the Kremlin has been greatly encouraged by the current chaos in Palestine and by Iraq's rejection of the UK treaty.
2. Conversations on western European military alliance--According to US Ambassador Caffery in Paris, French Foreign Minister Bidault has declared that if the US is associated in a secret military alliance with Great Britain and the Benelux countries, France is willing to sign a pact which will include "concrete promises on all sides for immediate action in any eventuality." Bidault expressed himself as afraid of a "high sounding treaty" with nothing effective behind it.

US Charge Millard in Brussels reports the opinion of Premier Spaak that the military pact now proposed by the French and British should be extended to include Africa. Spaak reiterated to Millard his belief that such a pact would require ultimate US support.

(CIA Comment: Spaak has previously indicated that his thinking followed the lines of a regional arrangement under the UN Charter. The inclusion of the US in such an arrangement would be inconsistent with a regional character.)

This publication contains current intelligence exclusively and therefore has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force.

State Dept. review completed

DIA review
completed.

ARMY review
completed

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EUROPE

4. FRANCE: Communists adopt waiting tactics -- The US Military Attache in Paris has learned

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that the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party has decided to refrain from an immediate program of generalized strikes or social agitation in France. The Bureau reportedly intends to proceed cautiously in the hope that the Government's price-cutting campaign will fail and thus open the door to a later agitation by labor for higher wages, a movement in which militants of Force Ouvriere might join. French Communist Leader Duclos has declared himself well satisfied with "this conciliatory formula of the Kremlin" which permits the Party to act with maximum opportunism.

5. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Moderates may join in new government -- According to US Ambassador Steinhardt, Communist leaders are reportedly not encountering too much difficulty in finding "fairly representative" National Socialist and Peoples Party members who are prepared to enter a new government.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes it possible that National Socialist and Peoples Party representatives may participate in the new government because (a) the Communists may wish to preserve a semblance of constitutionality, and (b) the Moderates may wish to retain at least token participation in the government.)

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6. GREECE: Satellite-supported Markos offensive possible in March--
The US Military Attache in Belgrade believes it "quite possible" that a guerrilla offensive will be launched from southeast Albania about mid-March or later. The MA bases his belief on: (a) recent indications of increased movement of Yugoslav tanks, artillery, and troops toward southeastern Yugoslavia and Albania; and (b) lack of success by the Markos forces which "demands a step-up soon." The MA believes that the "most plausible" next move would be to get organized combat units disguised as Greeks, or perhaps Albanians, into action via Albania.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that such an offensive is possible and that Yugoslavia could reinforce the Markos forces with substantial numbers of irregular troops without committing the Yugoslav Army.

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